PLAN BELIZE 2.0

The Belize Times

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VOTE X

The People's United Party has presented a concise, clear-cut and simple set of goals in Plan Belize 2.0, building on the success of Plan Belize. Following the presentation of that manifesto in San Ignacio, the PUP has taken its set of concrete goals on the ground, as the thirty-one candidates meet with residents in every community across the country.

The PUP has been lauded locally, regionally and globally for the success of its first term in office, led by Plan Belize. Taking office during the worst of the Covid pandemic, with tourism dead, businesses and our borders closed and thousands unemployed, the PUP was able to orchestrate the total rebound of the economy in short order. Faced with economic devastation and social stagnation, the PUP Government was able to turn things around. At the end of 2024, every Belize who was able and willing to work was employed.

While committing that they would cut poverty in half in 10 years, the PUP Government was in fact able to do it in four. From a high of 52%, the poverty rate today is 26%. The government was also able to restructure the country's most pressing debt, with significant savings. In 2020, the country's debt to GDP ratio was at 134%. By 2024 it had fallen to 63%. The average growth of the economy, following chronic contraction leading up to 2020, has been an unpreceded 9%.

Belizeans will never forget 2020. It was the year that then Prime Minister Dean Oliver Barrow went on national television to reveal that the country was on the brink of bankruptcy. He stated with certainty that the incoming government would need to immediately cut the wage bill and retrench public officers. He lamented that none of the IFIs would touch Belize. That is where the country and people were in 2020.

As we go to press, just days before a general election, the People's United Party has committed in Plan Belize 2.0 to the countrywide rollout of National Insurance. In its first term, NHIs services and coverage were expanded to include the Orange Walk District and the entire Belize District, including San Pedro and Caye Caulker. Only the Cayo District is left, and consultations have already begun to find primary care providers.

Another highlight of Plan Belize 2.0 is a commitment to increase the minimum wage again, this time to $6. From 2008 to 2020 the United Democratic Party talked about raising the minimum wage but never did it. The PUP did it within the first 3 years of its term, raising it from $3.30 to $5.00.

Plan Belize 2.0 also includes a commitment to expand Free Education to secondary schools. Currently 21 secondary schools across the country, close to 10,000 students, enjoy access to free education. Last week, Prime Minister John Briceño confirmed that Sacred Heart College in the Cayo District would be free for students, starting in August 2025. The Belize Times has confirmed that Cabinet is currently reviewing a list of schools for inclusion in the Education Upliftment Project which supports free education.

Housing has been a major commitment of this government in its first term, and Plan Belize 2.0 includes a commitment to push the housing programme to reach even more Belizeans. The homes will be the standard starter homes, but the Government will also look at building 2-bedroom homes.

In its second term in office, the People's United Party will increase it road and bridge infrastructure programme. Funding has already been secured for the reconstruction of the George Price Highway, and in this term both the Belcan Bridge and the Swing Bridge will be replaced.

There is much more to come in the second term, including the expansion of mobile land clinics and the use of technology to fight crime.

Plan Belize 2.0 is this government of the People's United Party building on the success of its first term, powered by hard work, commitment and integrity.

On March 12th, make the only choice.
The right choice.
Vote PUP!

Belize Completes Strategic Plan for Sustainable Development of Ambergris Caye with IDB Support

The Government of Belize, with the support of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), has finalized a Strategic Plan for the Sustainable Development of Ambergris Caye.

Ambergris Caye, one of Belize's premier tourism destinations, would benefit by achieving sustainable development goals during the next 20 years, including the adequate provision of urban services and strengthening critical infrastructure such as ports, airports, and roads. The island is also vulnerable to extreme weather events and the degradation of its natural assets.

The Strategic Plan was developed through technical assistance provided by the IDB to a task force established in 2022 by the Hon. John Briceño, Prime Minister of Belize. The task force focused on advising on the future development of Ambergris Caye and was comprised of government ministers, the Mayor of San Pedro, and representatives from the private sector.

The plan emerged from a multisectoral diagnosis. This included analyzing vulnerability to natural risks, examining both the historical and prospective growth of the urban footprint, and the current and projected carrying capacity of the island. The process involved 15 participatory workshops and several meetings and interactions with representatives from public institutions and organizations from the private and civil sectors.

The strategic plan envisions Ambergris Caye as a sustainable territory by 2045, by building resilient-natural sensitive infrastructure, and the generation of economic opportunities, promoting cultural identity in a productive, inclusive, and equitable environment.

The plan proposes key development projects, including new airport infrastructure, expansion and improvement of roads, expansion of the water and sewerage network, and expansion of the electrical network. It also proposes improvements to neighborhoods and housing access, as well as the construction of high-quality health facilities.

The Hon. Christopher Coye, Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance, Economic Development, and Investment, stated, "The Government of Belize is dedicated to transforming Ambergris Caye into a model of sustainable development. This Strategic Plan not only addresses the immediate needs of the island's residents but also lays the groundwork for long-term prosperity. By investing in essential infrastructure and sustainable initiatives, we aim to create a resilient and thriving environment that benefits both locals and visitors." (release)

Action Plan for our Sugar Industry

The Sugar Industry is one that has been as volatile as the boilers of its sugar mill. From the 70s, and thereafter, not missing a decade, turmoil has always been a part of the Industry. Changing world prices, world demand challenges, sugar alternatives, viability of the industry and more have been a part of the industry's history. Once there was a Sugar mill in Libertad Village but the UDP ended that. Ethanol was given a shot there but that did not do well. Sugar mills in the Caribbean started to close down in droves whilst Diabetes was and is a dire reality of the abuse of sugar. The UDP balked at selling the BSI factory to locals instead went with the world sugar giant American Sugar Refineries that took on BSI in a monumental shift from business as usual in 2012. That together with the use of Bagasse to generate Energy was huge in the industry. The sale of molasses was also controversial. The halt to the traditional tugboats also took sugar controversy to the stevedores of Belize. The point is that the sugar industry is complex. Like Oranges, Lobster, and Cattle, Sugarcane is too big in our small economy to fail.

The latest therefore, sounds like more headache. Modernizing the industry is a perpetual task and the Briceño administration is tackling it once more. The planners look for a strategic action plan for our sugar industry. Following the Commission of Inquiry for Sugar, we now move towards taking action for the continued sustainable development within the sector. The Prime Minister had a first meeting with the working group as the work commences.

The Working Group includes members of all Cane Farmers Associations, ASR/BSI and other critical sector bodies and specialists. Modernizing the sugar industry is a part of planBelize 2.0. The Briceño administration knows that the current 2-agreement has to be revamped before it expires.

The Belize Times

serving Belize since 1957 as the longest continuous newspaper.

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EDITORIAL

FOR BELIZE!

The People's United Party – one Party, one Leader – is asking ALL Belizeans across the country to come out on March 12th, 2025 and exercise their right to vote in the general election scheduled on that day. By casting their votes in 31 divisions for the representatives they feel will best represent them, the people will ensure that their voices are heard, and that they have played an active role in determining the future of Belize.

It is an interesting time in Belize, to say the least. What is happening in the political arena is unprecedented and unpleasant. What the players in the United Democratic Party have done to democracy in Belize cannot be tolerated. Both Jamal Barrow and Tracy Panton, in their greed for power and ownership of the UDP, have failed their supporters, have failed all Belizeans, and certainly have failed the country they both claim to love.

When voters go to the polls on March 12th, they will not know who leads the United Democratic Party. That question remains unanswered. They will not know who, on the ballot, represents the real United Democratic Party. In many divisions, there are two persons on the same ballot who claim to be UDP, and in at least one division, there are three candidates who say they are the 'true-true' UDPs. It is an unholy mess that will continue to play out long after elections are over. And it is a travesty, a slap in the face of voters.

Both leaders, and their respective casts of followers, have remined fully engaged in attacking each other. In ads, on social media, in the news, on morning shows, at every opportunity. Barrow says he is UDP leader. Panton says she is. Barrow says that Panton et al are, in his words, a corrupt cabal. Panton, in turn, says that Barrow is a cancer that must be rooted out at all costs. Barrow continues to push for the Court to imprison Panton, and Panton continues to push for Barrow to be exiled.

Yet, in what must be the most bizarre of ironies, both Jamal Barrow and Tracy Panton are maintaining that they are fit and qualified to lead the country. Both of them say they have what it takes to govern Belize and its people. Both of them, in what has to be the most stinking hypocrisy of this modern political age, say that they want nothing more than to serve Belizeans, and they deserve the opportunity to do so. They are begging voters to acknowledge their credibility, when both have proven and continue to prove with each passing day that they have none. They are begging to be regarded as leaders, when both behave like petulant brats. They are begging for the people's respect, but neither has done anything to earn respect.

For voters, there should be no confusion. Perhaps the Deputy Leader of the People's United Party, Cordel Hyde, has put it best.

"The PUP is not a perfect Party, but we have come a long way. We have revitalized the economy. More people are working than ever before. More tourists are coming than ever before. More homes for deserving Belizeans are being built than ever before. More land is being given to first-time landowners than ever before. There is more access to health and education than ever before. Belize is respected regionally and globally, like never before. The poverty rate is lower than it has ever been. We might not be perfect, but we are on the right track. We know who is driving this bus, and WE ARE RIGHT PAN TRACK.

There is no other option, because on that other bus, there is NO DRIVER."

On March 12th, there should be no confusion. Look for the BLUE box and mark your X beside it. We'll see you at the polls on Wednesday.

en Español

¡POR BELICE!

El Partido Unido del Pueblo -un partido, un líder- pide a TODOS los beliceños del país que acudan a las urnas el 12 de marzo de 2025 y ejerzan su derecho al voto en las elecciones generales previstas para ese día. Al votar en las 31 circunscripciones por los representantes que creen mejor representarlos, los ciudadanos se asegurarán de que sus voces sean escuchadas y de que han desempeñado un papel activo en la determinación del futuro de Belice.

Es un momento interesante en Belice, por no decir más. Lo que está ocurriendo en la arena política no tiene precedentes y es desagradable. Lo que los actores del Partido Unido Democrático han hecho a la democracia en Belice no puede tolerarse. Tanto Jamal Barrow como Tracy Panton, en su codicia de poder y la propiedad del UDP, han fallado a sus seguidores, han fallado a todos los beliceños y, desde luego, han fallado al país que ambos dicen amar.

Cuando los votantes acudan a las urnas el 12 de marzo, no sabrán quién lidera el Partido Unido Democrático. Esa pregunta sigue sin respuesta. No sabrán quién, en la papeleta electoral, representa al verdadero Partido Unido Demócrata. En muchas divisiones, hay dos personas en la misma papeleta que dicen ser del UDP, y en al menos una división, hay tres candidatos que dicen ser los «verdaderos» del UDP. Es un lío profano que seguirá produciéndose mucho después de que terminen las elecciones. Y es una parodia, una bofetada a los votantes.

Ambos líderes, y sus respectivos grupos de seguidores, se han dedicado a atacarse mutuamente. En anuncios, en las redes sociales, en las noticias, en los programas matinales, en cada oportunidad. Barrow dice que es el líder del UDP. Panton dice que ella es. Barrow dice que Panton y otros son, en sus palabras, una cábala corrupta. Panton, a su vez, dice que Barrow es un cáncer que hay que extirpar a toda costa. Barrow sigue presionando para que el Tribunal encarcele a Panton, y Panton sigue presionando para que Barrow sea exiliado.

Sin embargo, en lo que debe ser la más extraña de las ironías, tanto Jamal Barrow como Tracy Panton mantienen que son aptos y están cualificados para dirigir el país. Ambos afirman que tienen lo que hace falta para gobernar Belice y a su pueblo. Ambos, en lo que tiene que ser la hipocresía más fétida de esta era política moderna, dicen que no quieren otra cosa que servir a los beliceños, y que merecen la oportunidad de hacerlo. Ruegan a los votantes que reconozcan su credibilidad, cuando ambos han demostrado y siguen demostrando cada día que no tienen ninguna. Ruegan que se les considere líderes, cuando ambos se comportan como mocosos petulantes. Están mendigando el respeto de la gente, pero ninguno de los dos ha hecho nada para ganárselo.

Para los votantes, no debe haber confusión. Quizá el líder adjunto del Partido Unido del Pueblo, Cordel Hyde, lo haya expresado mejor.

«El PUP no es un partido perfecto, pero hemos recorrido un largo camino. Hemos revitalizado la economía. Hay más gente trabajando que nunca. Vienen más turistas que nunca. Se están construyendo más casas que nunca para los beliceños que lo merecen. Se están dando más tierras que nunca a propietarios primerizos. El acceso a la salud y la educación es mayor que nunca. Belice es respetado regional y mundialmente como nunca antes. La tasa de pobreza es más baja que nunca. Puede que no seamos perfectos, pero vamos por el buen camino. Sabemos quién conduce este autobús, y VAMOS BIEN.

No hay otra opción, porque en ese otro autobús NO HAY CONDUCTOR.»

El 12 de marzo no debe haber confusión. Busca la casilla AZUL y marca tu X al lado. Nos vemos el miércoles en las urnas.

VOTE PUP MARCH 12TH, 2025

John Briceño
Orange Walk Central

right on track | vamos bien

Andre Perez
Belize Rural South

Cordel Hyde
Lake Independence

Francis Fonseca
Freetown

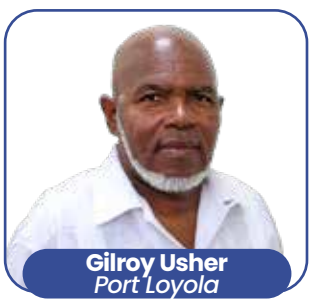
Kareem Musa
Caribbean Shores

Julius Espat
Cayo South

Orlando Habet
Cayo Northeast

Louis Zabaneh
Dangriga

Jose Mai
Orange Walk South



Gilroy Usher
Port Loyola

Devin Daly
Collet

Kevin Bernard
Orange Walk East

Florencio Marin
Corozal Southeast

Oscar Mira
Belmopan

Lorna Mckay
Queen's Square

Thea Garcia Ramirez
Corozal Bay

Kaya Cattouse
Albert

Dolores Balderamos Garcia
Belize Rural Central

Michel Chebat
Cayo North

Jorge 'Milin' Espat
Cayo West

Oscar Requena
Toledo West

David Castillo
Corozal North

Ramon Cervantes Jr.
Orange Walk North

Marconi Leal, Jr.
Belize Rural North

Lawrence Ellis
Mesopotamia

Rodwell Ferguson
Stann Creek West

Alex Balona Sr.
Cayo Central

Osmond Martinez
Toledo East

Ramiro Ramirez
Corozal Southwest

Henry Charles Usher
Fort George

Anthony Mahler
Pickstock

RIVA BATTAM

Desperation

The clock is ticking and Jamal is at the point of a mental breakdown, sources in his camp tell us. The man loves talking about his personal fortune but notice he hasn't mentioned it in a while. That's cause he's broke. Follow the money. Jamal was deported back to Belize and pretty much lived on what Daddy Dean felt obliged to give him, and what he could credit. Then suddenly he and Diddy greased up each other with baby oil and made up, and money was flowing like ecstasy at one of Diddy's white parties. Then Diddy was arrested, Jamal betrayed him like Peter did Jesus, and suddenly the money is gone. Word is Jamal has been crediting ads all over the place and begging his candidates to spend their money and he'll give them back after elections. Ain't nobody wanting to hear that right now. We suspect quite a few more UDP candidates are going to walk before the UDP's funeral on March 12th. Wait for it.

Woman Problems

Sometimes so much happens in the political arena that other things tend to blow over 'like wah lee breeze.' Like for example, Patrick Faber is right back up there doing the morning show circuit, sitting all saintly and cutesy and acting like a paragon of virtue and values. But wait just a damn minute. This is the man who assaulted his baby's mother with a hammer, traumatized her to the point of her going to the Police for urgent help. This it the man that was on the run from Police and had to do the perp walk into court. This is the man who messed around with a Ministry of Education employee when he was Minister and then beat her up for her birthday – pulling her across the room by her hair. This is a man whose wife divorced him, citing emotional and physical cruelty. This man should have been locked up on multiple occasions. Tracy, who always pretends to be an advocate for women, should be ashamed to be hugging up with Patrick Faber.

Fresh breeze

Noh mind di lee Tracy deh behave like she is so confident in the Alberts. Dih fact is that Alberts under Tracy has never seen this level of energy and work that Kaya Cattouse has brought in just a few months. We noh deh be unkind and we certainly noh deh body shame. We just deh be real. The best that Tracy has been able to muster up these days is about 365 Facebook posts a day. And then there's that memorable video of Tracy sitting in the back of a pickup truck waving like she is some beauty queen in a pageant. Listen! The people tried Tracy and nothing happened to develop the area. And with all the crap happening in the UDP, it makes absolutely no sense to even go that way again. Kaya is a worker and a champion. The Alberts is going BLUE on March 12th.

It's TIME

By this time next week, the elections will be over and done with, and with the support of the people of Belize, the People's United Party will be back in office to continue the work. There will be no confusion at the polls. If the UDPs want to have 2, 3 or 10 candidates on the ballot paper, that doesn't matter. If the UDP has proven anything in the past months, it is that they are completely unfit for Opposition. And if they can't even be a credible Opposition, how on God's green earth could they possibly expect to be a credible government? So it's simple. Across the country. On March 12th, walk in, get your ballot paper, look for the BLUE and mark your X beside it. End of story.

PACT
Protected Areas Conservation Trust

VACANCY NOTICE

Multimedia Assistant

The Multimedia Assistant produces engaging multimedia content to support campaigns and initiatives for various audiences using multiple platforms. Following PACT's brand guidelines and principles of graphic design, the Multimedia Assistant supports the Communications and Marketing Unit in crafting and delivering strategic messaging about PACT to improve visibility, increase brand awareness, and enhance stakeholder engagement.

Requirements:

Required: Associate Degree in Graphic Design, Fine Arts, Marketing, Communications, or closely related field

Asset: Certification in Digital Marketing

Required: Minimum of two (2) years' experience in graphic design, digital marketing, or creating multimedia content

Asset: Familiarity with website design, content management systems (e.g. WordPress), or search engine optimization

The full job description is available at www.pactbelize.org. Packages must be submitted electronically and must include signed application letter, resume, certified copies of academic certificates, current police record (receipt can be submitted initially) and a list of two professional references (names and contact information only) no later than **5:00 p.m. Wednesday, March 12th, 2025**. Only complete packages will be processed. Packages should be addressed to:

Human Resources
info@pactbelize.org with copy to ed@pactbelize.org
Re: Multimedia Assistant Vacancy

PACT is an equal opportunity employer and does not discriminate against protected characteristics (gender, age, sexual orientation, race, nationality, ethnicity, religion, disability).

PACT is not liable for any costs incurred by applicants in submission of their application.

NATIONAL GAS
Company (Belize) Ltd.

NOTICE
INVITATION TO TENDER – NGC/04/25

The National Gas Company (Belize) Limited (NGC) hereby invites bids for the supply of LPG to its Marine Terminal located at the Port of Big Creek, Belize.

INVITATION
NGC hereby invites bids from qualified entities to supply LPG in the amounts of **23 million US gallons (US gals) +/- 10%** of "HD-5 propane as per GPA-2140" and 10 million US gallons (US gals) +/- 10% of "Commercial Butane as per GPA-2140" for the period **15 May 2025 to 14 May 2027**.

BIDDING DOCUMENTS
Bidding documents and submission guidelines can be requested via email at lpg@scebrokerage.com

VALIDITY OF BID
The Bidder shall indicate that the bid as submitted is a firm offer and that the offer shall remain valid up to and including **March 28, 2025**.

CLARIFICATION OF BID DOCUMENT
A prospective Bidder requiring any clarification on the Bidding Document shall make a digital request for such clarification to lpg@scebrokerage.com

Requests for clarification should be made no later than 7 days prior to the closing date for the submission of bids.

CLOSING DATE AND TIME FOR SUBMISSION OF BIDS
March 7, 2025, at 16:00 hrs. Belize Time the latest.

CRNCY

PEOPLE · INVESTMENTS · TECHNOLOGY

HIRING

COMPLIANCE OFFICER

Attractive compensation package

QUALIFICATIONS

- Bachelor's degree
- Current AML Specialist Certification from the University of Belize, FIBA or ACAMS
- Minimum 5 years working experience preferably in the finance industry

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

- Regulatory Compliance & Oversight
- Monitoring & Risk Assessment
- Compliance Training & Awareness
- Reporting & Liaison to Regulatory Bodies

Deadline to Apply:
March 18, 2025
Apply online by using the link:
https://bit.ly/CompOfficer-CRNCY
or Scan the QR code

PACT
Protected Areas Conservation Trust

VACANCY NOTICE

Project Development Officer

The Project Development Officer supports the development and subsequent implementation of project concepts and proposals that align with Belize's national strategies for building resilience to the impacts of climate change. By ensuring that projects adhere to Belize's National Determined Contributions (NDCs), Low Emission Development Strategy (LEDS), the Country Program to the Green Climate Fund (GCF), and the National Climate Change Policy, Strategy and Action Plan (NCCPSAP), the Project Development Officer plays a crucial role in PACT's expansion of impact on Belize's national development through climate smart initiatives.

Requirements:

Required: Master's Degree in Environmental Studies, Sustainable Development, Project Management, or related field

Asset: Professional certification in project design or project management

Required: Minimum of three (3) years' work experience in project development or project management; exposure to project design

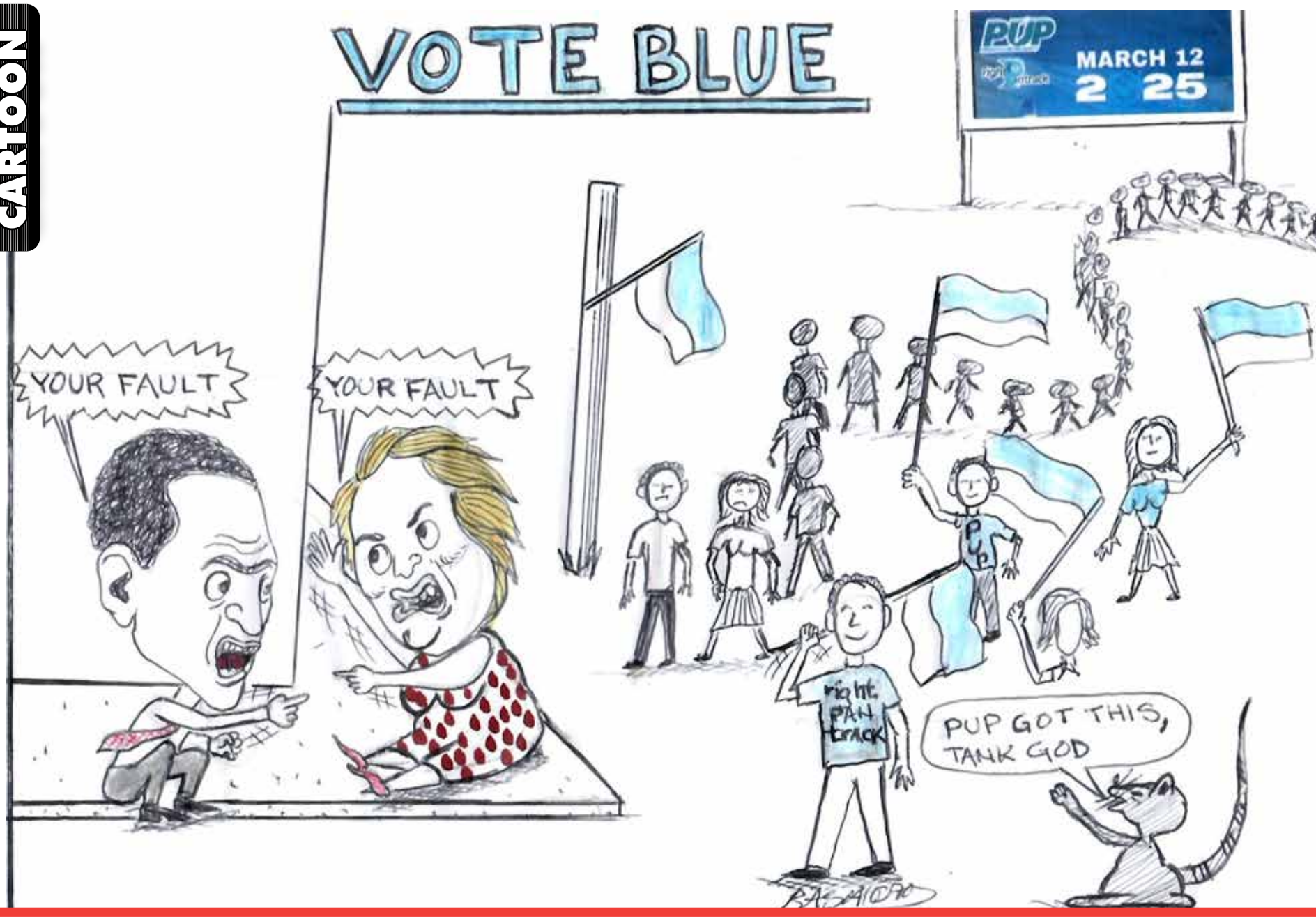
The full job description is available at www.pactbelize.org. Packages must be submitted electronically and must include signed application letter, resume, certified copies of academic certificates, current police record (receipt can be submitted initially) and a list of two professional references (names and contact information only) no later than **5:00 p.m. Thursday, March 20th, 2025**. Only complete packages will be processed. Packages should be addressed to:

Human Resources
info@pactbelize.org with copy to ed@pactbelize.org
Re: Project Development Officer Vacancy

PACT is an equal opportunity employer and does not discriminate against protected characteristics (gender, age, sexual orientation, race, nationality, ethnicity, religion, disability).

PACT is not liable for any costs incurred by applicants in submission of their application.

CARTOON



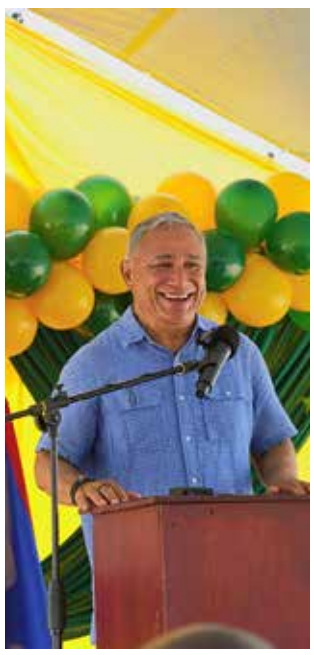
PM's Work Continues

Major work in PM's OW Central. The work is completed; community life improved.

New Police Substation in Monchi's Trial Farm

This was inaugurated in Trial Farm Village in the Orange Walk District. This project is a partnership between the Belize Tourism Board and Hon. Anthony Mahler, in collaboration with Hon. Kareem Musa and Hon. Ramon Cervantes. It marks a major step towards ensuring the safety and well-being of all residents and visitors, as this new facility will provide a dedicated law enforcement presence in the community. The substation will include two holding cells, two office spaces, two bathrooms, and a main lobby area.

At the official ribbon-cutting ceremony, remarks were delivered by Hon. John Briceño, Prime Minister of Belize; Hon. Anthony Mahler, Hon. Ramon Cervantes, and Mr. Oscar Cornel, Chairman of Trial Farm Village.



With Young innovative minds at SJC

WATER PlanBelize Takes It All Over Belize

MAFREDI

Progress continues in Mafredi as the official groundbreaking marks the start of a transformative $1.58 million rural water system project! This new water system will provide families with better access to clean, safe, and reliable potable water.

Once completed, the project will feature a new water distribution system across the village, 67 household service connections with meters, a pumphouse for efficient water regulation, a hydropneumatic tank and chlorine dosing system for water quality and safety, and a 10,000-gallon water storage tank.

SARTENEJA - BWSL

With a joint effort of the Government of Belize and Protected Areas Conservation Trust (PACT), Ministry of Rural Transformation, Community Development, Labour and Local Government has secured $2.0 Million investment to supply and install much needed Reverse Osmosis Water treatment plant at Sarteneja Village.

This new plant will be able to produce 110,000 gallons of water per day by using brackish water from the well. Belize Water Service will take primary responsibility for the implementing of this project, which is expected to be completed in four months, starting from March 17, 2025.

It is important to note that Sarteneja is the second largest village in Belize with an estimated population of 3,500, and tourism is increasingly emerging as a significant source of income. Therefore, the investment aligns with the Sustainable Development Goals and the vision of a Blue Economy.

Present at the groundbreaking ceremony were BWS Executive Chairman Cornelio Acosta Jr, Ministry of Finance -Assets and Utilities Manager Ashton Longsworth, Hon. Florencio Marin Jr., Sarteneja Village Council Chairman Lucio Guerrero, Sarteneja Water Board Chairman Jemayel Verde, the Rural Water Services Manager (MRTCDLLG) Juan Marin Jr.

SANTA ROSA/ SAN ROMAN

The Ministry of Rural Transformation, Community Development, Labour & Local Government continues to enhance the quality of life for Belizeans residing in rural communities by providing sufficient access to essential resources. The neighboring villages of Santa Rosa and San Roman, which have faced persistent water shortages for 14 years, now have a dependable water system.

This critical intervention was made possible through the collaborative efforts of the Government of Belize, UNICEF, and the Area Representative of Stann Creek West, Rodwell Ferguson.

Digi
Our National Telecom

Press Release
3rd March, 2025

Digi Expands ConnectED Program to 70 More Schools, Reaching Over 77,000 Students

Digi, in partnership with the Government of Belize and the Ministry of Education, has expanded its ConnectED program to 70 additional schools under Phase 2 of the initiative. The Signing Ceremony was held on February 21, 2025, at Our Lady of the Way Primary School in Ladyville.

"Connectivity is about providing access to knowledge, opportunities, and a brighter future,,

said Digi CEO Ivan Tesucum. Hon. Francis Fonseca, Minister of Education, highlighted the government's commitment to digital learning in his keynote address.

Digi remains dedicated to bridging the digital divide and empowering Belizean students with the tools they need to succeed.

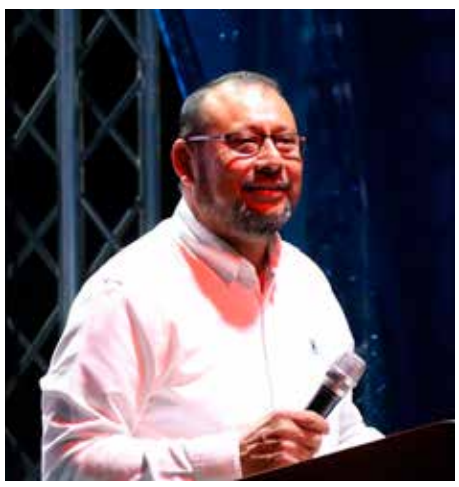
With 213 schools already connected in Phase 1, this expansion brings high-speed internet, digital resources, and enhanced learning opportunities to over 78,000 students and close to 4,500 teachers—impacting 77% of primary and secondary schools nationwide.

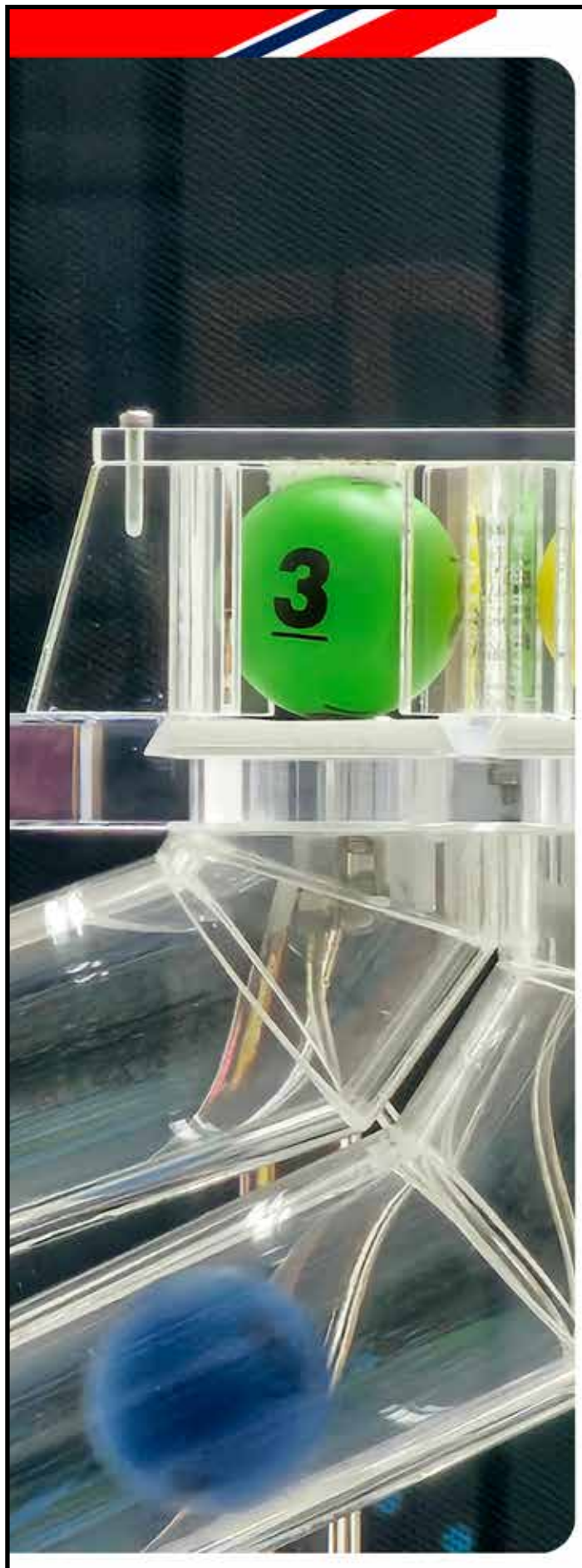
ORANGE WALK SOUTH'S MASSIVE RALLY

On March 1, 2025, thousands thronged to San Lazaro village for a political rally in support of Jose Abelardo Mai and the People's United Party as they go into General Elections on March 12, 2025. Jose Mai is looking for a fourth term. He has been highly successful as an Agriculture Minister and is sought in the region for speeches as his success in exportation, diversification, food security and disease management are par excellence.

That grit and success is centered in Orange Walk South. Even as he is always in Toledo, Central Farm, Pomona, Shrimp Farm, El Salvador, Mexico and the Caribbean, Orange Walk South is never lost in the mix as his success is OWS success. Agriculture in Orange Walk South is a success in Belize of course. Abi Mai does not forget the need for water, and streets, and security and jobs in his area. He is a true champion like the other planBelize representatives.

Abi Mai is a great example of how to be a representative and a minister. The rally was altogether a thank you for having me for all these years and let's continue with planBelize 2.0. Prime Minister Briceño, Monchi Cervantes, Kevin Bernard, Thea Garcia-Ramirez, Ramiro Ramirez, and Florencio Marin all spoke in support of their friend and colleague Mai.





BELIZE GOVERNMENT LOTTERIES LTD.
Fi WE Boledo!

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DO YOU HAVE THE LUCKY NUMBER?

UDP GASPS as

The CCJ, Belize's Highest Court. Denies Ramlogan's Special Leave Application on Behalf of Enriquez et al

It is still unclear how UDP ex Election and Boundaries Chairman Perera was involved in the Ramlogan-Enriques, Norales(-Petillo), Tulcey redistricting case. What is clear is that the UDP, one of the two, was highly interested in kicking the election pan down the road. It is comical now to remember how Shyne spent 4 years in the House jumping up and asking for Elections. Now he has his cake and it is poisoned. Elections 2025 looms large in UDP lore as the Election that my finally bury its dead carcass.

Eamon Courtenay, Attorney-At-Law, GoB's and AG's Attorney – "It was very obvious because of his pertinence and impudence that Mr. Ramlogan did not like the way the court granted its order. Without saying anything to anybody, we received an application by him for special leave, directly to the CCJ. Today the CCJ dismissed it saying it was absolutely without merit. The matter is before the Court of Appeal. The Court of Appeal has not even grappled with it, yet because it gave directions that was not to his liking because of timing, he thought he would go to the Caribbean Court of Justice. In my opinion it is a clear case of what lawyers call forum shopping. If you don't like this court, you will run to a next one. It was transparent and obvious and entirely without merit. In order for you to appeal there are some procedural hurdles that has to be completed. He attempted and the court entertained him, he attempted to jump over those hurdles without completing them. The court entertained him and said well we have to file evidence. You have an application, there has to be evidence and submissions and both sides. Those orders were given. The result of those orders is that it was unlikely that his application would have been heard by twelfth of Match. He felt that the Court of Appeal was frustrating Mr. Enriquez's claim."

So the TwoDP is going into the Election 2025 forcibly. The PUP is doing its job: Presenting a case to the Belizean people that we are highly qualified for another five-year term. That we are Right Pan Track! Y, Vamos Bien! And by the thousands, the Belizean people are coming to the PUP rallies and meeting and listening to all that has been accomplished. The Belizean people are politically savvy. They see right through fake-news pseudo-journalists like J. Vasquez. Jules and his Channel have lost election after elections. Jules has lost SIX straight major election cycles. Jules is not a credible analyst and has probably helped to destroy the UDP with his false rhetoric and penchant for news manufacturing.

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Belize Youth Movement Recognized

We're excited to share that the Belize Youth Movement-Belmopan Chapter was recognized at the National Climate Change Grant Fund Award Ceremony!

The chapter has been awarded BZD 10,000 to further efforts in addressing climate change, and we want YOU to be a part of this important journey!

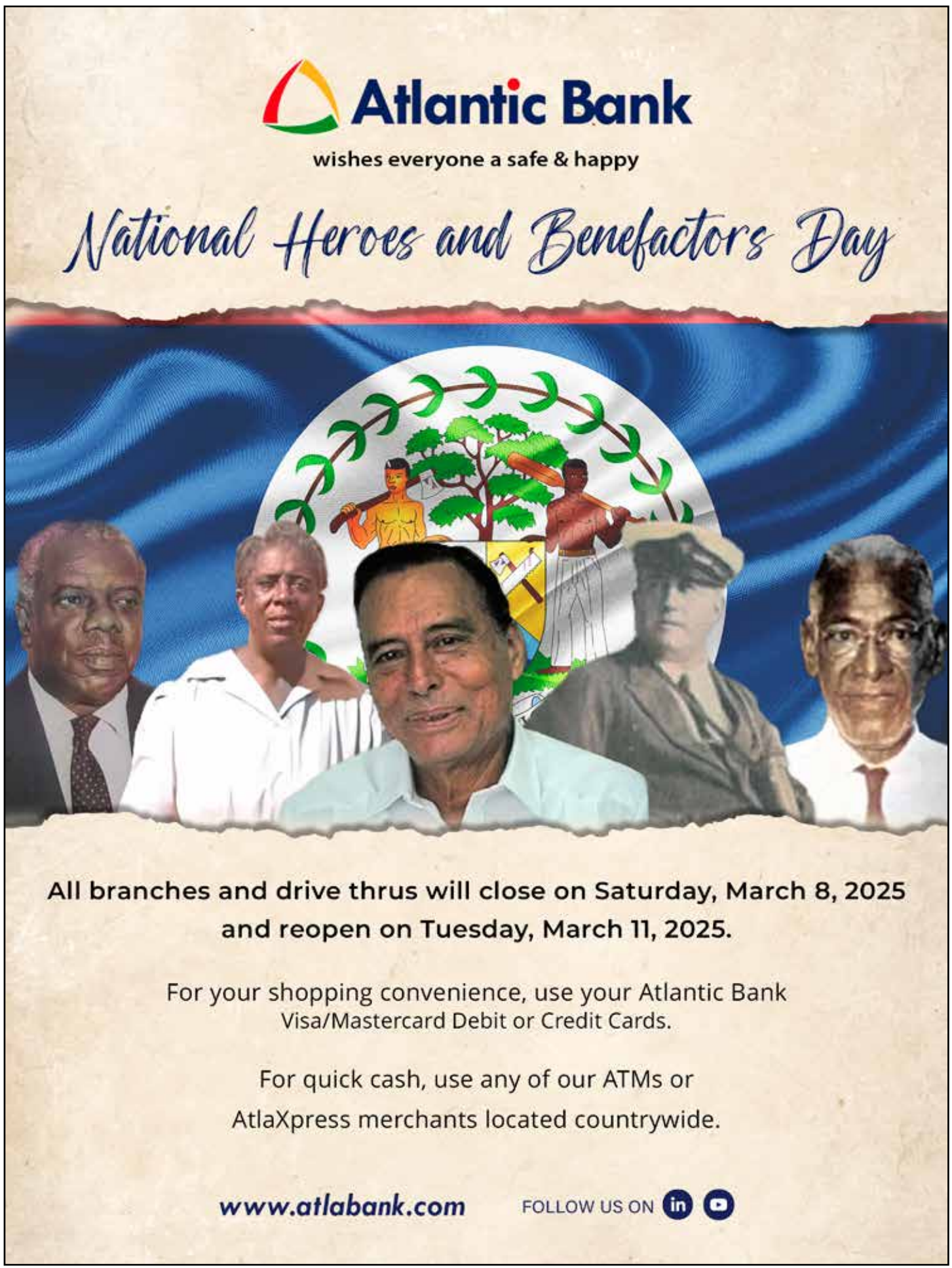
A big congratulations to all the other youth organizations and schools who were recognized for their incredible work in the fight against climate change. Your efforts inspire us all, and together, we're

creating a movement for positive change!

#ClimateAction #YouthEmpowerment #ClimateChange #BelizeYouth

This is just the beginning. Together, we can create real, lasting change and continue raising awareness about the challenges our planet faces.

Stay tuned for updates on how you can get involved and make a difference in your community! Let's keep the momentum going-our future depends on it. (post)


Atlantic Bank
wishes everyone a safe & happy
National Heroes and Benefactors Day
All branches and drive thrus will close on Saturday, March 8, 2025
and reopen on Tuesday, March 11, 2025.
For your shopping convenience, use your Atlantic Bank
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For quick cash, use any of our ATMs or
AtlaXpress merchants located countrywide.
www.atlabank.com
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PUP Pre-Election 2025

Right Pan Track! ¡Vamos Bien!

John Briceño - Orange Walk Central

Cordel Hyde - Lake Independence

Francis Fonseca - Freetown

Jose Mai - OW South

Julius Espat - Cayo South

Rodwell Ferguson - Stann Creek West

Thea Garcia-Ramirez - Corozal Bay

Kaya Cattouse - Albert

Lorna Mckay - Queen's Square

Dolores Balderamos Garcia - Belize Rural Central

Michel Chebat - Cayo North

Alex Balona - Cayo Central

Orlando Habet - Cayo Northeast

Jorge 'Milin' Espat - Cayo West

Oscar Mira - Belmopan

David Castillo - Corozal North

Ramiro Ramirez - Corozal Southwest

Florencio Marin - Corozal Southeast

Oscar Requena - Toledo West

Andre Perez - Belize Rural South

Marconi Leal, Jr. - Belize Rural North

Lawrence Ellis - Mesopotamia

Devin Daly - Collet

Kareem Musa - Caribbean Shores

Gilroy Usher Sr. - Port Loyola

Ramon Cervantes, Jr. - Orange Walk North

Kevin Bernard - Orange Walk East

Osmond Martinez - Toledo East

Louis Zabaneh - Dangriga

Hon. Henry Charles Usher - Fort George

Hon. Anthony Mahler - Pickstock

right pantrack vamos bien

25

QUICK READING FACTS

In just 4.3 years

DAILY REALITY CONDITIONS------ECONOMIC ENGINE------SAFER SOCIETY------SERVICE IMPROVEMENT------BLUE+ GREEN------EDU + SCI+ TECH = CULTURE

- reduced levels of poverty, unemployment & national debt
- universal access to NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE
- mobile land clinics served to first time land owners from every walk of life____ 25,000+ parcels granted
- growing agriculture industries: bananas, coconuts, shrimp, sugar cane & new export industries: cattle, soybeans & more
- 1,000+ small new businesses established led by women, youth & rural residents
- 800+ starter homes built____ongoing____primarily for single mothers
- We bounced back post-COVID____visitors returned / numbers increasing
- Inflation is stabilizing, our economy surged to an average 9.5% annually____one of the highest internationally
- after hiring new recruits, upgrading training facilities, funding first time, intervention & addressing gender-based violence in over a decade, we see crime indicators falling
- now, crowds of families are re-entering public spaces____parks, playgrounds, night time community activities come alive
- feeling safer helps us to be more optimistic, expecting a better life. hope & opportunity is being restored
- our COVID-19 response was effective, ensuring public health & safety
- based on our realities & needs____consistently collaborating with remote communities____supporting soldier readiness, wellness & far better living conditions
- focused on governance, ethics & customer service education
- fiscal reforms have reduced public debt from 132 to 64.7% of GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT GDP
- CONSTITUTIONAL REFORMS soon. INTEGRITY COMMISSION & WHISTLE BLOWERS' BILL fully operational this year
- good PROTECTION MANAGEMENT for our environment & people
- we contributed $1.4 billion toward stopping CLIMATE CHANGE
- we advanced environmental sustainability through the BLUE BOND. electricity, water & internet to 180+ villages_ being DELIVERED
- we stopped land degradation_104,000+ acres of forests__30,000+ acres mangroves added
- $148 million for education & energy grants___reached 75% of electricity consumption from renewables
- women now hold 50% of CEO roles in ministries & key positions
- free education @ 21 secondary schools across the country. we will fight to the end until education is free
- everyday our HEALTHY START PROGRAM provides daily nutritious meals for 15,000+ high school students
- screens connected for science, technology, engineering, arts & math STEAM
- established digital platform 501ACADEMY, THE BELIZE MUSIC PROJECT, BELIZE CULTURE FUND, MUSEUM OF BELIZEAN ART...

because

culture is what and who we are

POVERTY RATE declines 52 to 22% | MINIMUM WAGE raised 3 to $5 per hour | NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE will cover close to half the population | affordable social rate LAND distribution $500 million transfer of wealth | 270+schools with internet & 62 schools integrated new coding programs | 195,000+ people joined the labour force | 3% unemployment in 2024 | tourism reached 40% of economy | $149 million for infrastructure | $320 million for foreign investment $1.5 billion for public loans | $77 million for solar plant | diaspora remittances rose to $220 million LEADERSHIP INTERVENTION UNIT LIU established 2021 | proper use of CRIME OBSERVATORY | enhanced LOTUS WELLNESS CENTER | expanded forensic labs | training 1,000+ public officers & clearing 50% pending criminal cases

25

DATOS DESTACAR

En solo 4.3 años

NUESTRO DÍA A DÍA MOTOR ECONÓMICO SEGURIDAD MEJORA DE SERVICIOS PÚBLICOS ECONOMÍA AZUL + VERDE EDU + SCI + TECH = CULTURA

- se han generado más empleos, disminuido los niveles de pobreza y BELIZE está menos endeudado
- este año todos tendremos acceso universal al NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE
- con clínicas móviles de LANDS se apoyan a los nuevos propietarios de terrenos 25,000+ lotes entregados
- construimos 800+ primeras viviendas dando prioridad a las madres solteras
- la agricultura crece y prospera: cítricos, bananas, caña de azúcar, acuacultura y nuevas industrias de exportación: ganadería, soya y mucho más
- se abrieron 1,000+ emprendimientos creados por mujeres, jóvenes y residentes rurales
- nos recuperamos del post-COVID _ el turismo incrementa
- la inflación está disminuyendo, nuestra economía aumenta a 9.5% anualmente una de las más altas a nivel internacional
- por primera vez en décadas, los niveles del crimen han bajado resultado de contratar nuevos reclutas, mejorar las instalaciones de entrenamiento, su financiamiento y redoblar esfuerzos para combatir la violencia de género
- finalmente, muchas familias visitan espacios públicos: parques, zonas de juegos y festivales comunitarios
- con más seguridad y oportunidades ahora tenemos la esperanza de poder vivir en un BELIZE mejor
- colaboramos regularmente con comunidades remotas que a menudo pasan desapercibidas esforzándonos para tener más seguridad y calidad de vida
- nuestra respuesta al COVID-19 fue eficiente, consiguiendo el bienestar común y la salud pública
- promoviendo la ética moral y el aprendizaje al servicio del ciudadano, nos enfocamos así en optimizar la manera de gobernar
- la reforma fiscal redujo la deuda pública de 132 a 64.7% del GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT GDP
- este año ya estará en función la INTEGRITY COMMISSION & WHISTLE BLOWERS' BILL y ya pronto tendremos las CONSTITUTIONAL REFORMS
- PROTECTION MANAGEMENT para nuestro medioambiente y nuestra gente. destinando $1.4 billones para detener el cambio climático
- al avanzar en sostenibilidad del medioambiente con el BLUE BOND, se pudo llevar electricidad, agua e internet a 180+ aldeas
- detuvimos la degradación forestal de 104,000+ acres y se plantaron 30,000+ acres de manglares
- $148 millones en educación y energía 75% de consumo eléctrico
- proveniente de energías renovables
- las mujeres están a cargo del 50% de los roles de CEO dentro del gobierno y muchos otros puestos clave en nuestro país
- hasta el momento tenemos educación gratuita en 21 escuelas secundarias, seguiremos luchando hasta que algún día TODA
- la EDUCACIÓN sea GRATIS
- se lo MERECEN
- es su DERECHO
- nuestro HEALTHY START PROGRAM da comida a 15,000+ estudiantes
- NIÑAS + NIÑOS son el futuro de BELIZE nutriéndolos con
- alimentos sanos, matemáticas, artes, ingeniería, ciencias y tecnologías avanzadas
- se creó THE BELIZE MUSIC PROJECT, MUSEUM OF BELIZEAN ART, BELIZE CULTURE FUND y la plataforma digital 501ACADEMY...

porque

culture is what and who we are

REDUCCIÓN del rivel de pobreza de 52 a 22% | SUELDO MÍNIMO 3 a $5 la hora NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE NIH pronto cubrirá casi el 50% de la población TERRENOS a precios accesibles equivalentes a $500 millones reflejados en la economia nacional | 270+ escuelas con acceso

al internet y 62 que ya enseñan programas de codificación se han creado 195,000+ puestos de trabajo 3% de desempita en 2024 | 40% de la economía proviene del turismo | $149 millones para infraestructura | $320 millones en inversión extranjera | $1.5 billones para deudas públicas | $77 millones en plantas solares $220 millones en remesas | en 2021 se establece LEADERSHIP INTERVENTION UNIT LIU uso adecuado del CRIME OBSERVATORY mejoramiento del LOTUS WELLNESS CENTER expansión de laboratorios forenses capacitación de 1,000+agentes públicos y se están resolviendo 50% de casos penales pendientes

PLANBELIZE 2.0

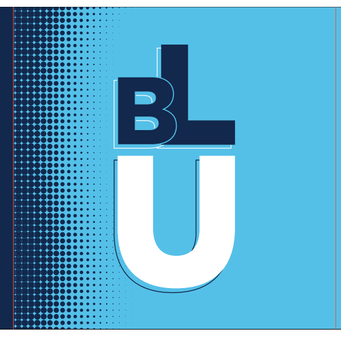
WE WILL

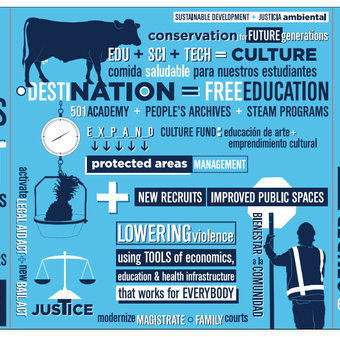
1. Roll out NHI for ALL
2. Raise minimum wage to $6
3. DEVELOP the Port of Belize
4. Expand FREE Education & Healthy Start
5. Expand 501Academy and PEOPLE'S Archives
6. Expand The Mobile LAND Clinic
7. More starter HOMES to 2 bedrooms
8. Massive increase in ROAD, and BRIDGE network
9. Advanced TECHNOLOGY to fight crime
10. Dramatically grow the A G R I - CULTURE basket

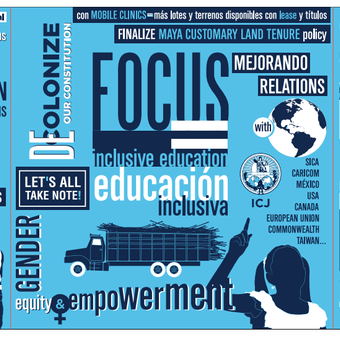
Nosotros vamos a

1. Implementar el NHI para TODOS
2. Aumentar el salario mínimo a $6
3. Desarollar el Puerto de Belice.
4. Ampliar la Educación GRATUITA y Healthy Start
5. Ampliar la Academia 501 y los Archivos del PUEBLO
6. Ampliar la Clínica MÓVIL de TIERRA
7. Más CASAS iniciales de 2 dormitorios
8. Aumento masivo en la red de CARRETERAS y PUENTES
9. Tecnología avanzada para combatir el crimen
10. Aumentar drásticamente la canasta de la AGRICULTURA

HERE comes the sun
chances are you have heard about some of our ideas + plans with new objectives & goals | innovating to progress & prosper as a nation | we invite you to read, think & consider our approach, one that we share – OUR PLAN OF ACTION | PALABRAS have meaning, so go ahead, check inside | this is BLU | tell your neighbours, friends & family: #planBELIZE is ready!
greetings
HOY proponemos una nueva etapa, con nuevos objetivos y metas | esto es #planBELIZE, proyecto de nación que busca construir una vida más justa y de calidad para todas + todos | paso a paso nos aseguraremos de que BELIZE avance hacia una educación gratuita, se generen más empleos, mejor salud pública, seguridad social y mucho más: innovando para progresar + prosperar | la NACIÓN somos todos y todos somos BELIZE.




SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT + JUSTICIA ambiental
conservation for FUTURE generations
EDU + SCI + TECH = CULTURE
comida saludable para nuestros estudiantes
DESTINATION = FREE EDUCATION
501 ACADEMY + PEOPLE'S ARCHIVES + STEAM PROGRAMS
EXPAND CULTURE FUND
educación de arte + emprendimiento cultural
protected areas MANAGEMENT
NEW RECRUITS | IMPROVED PUBLIC SPACES
LOWERING violence
using TOOLS of economics, education & health infrastructure that works for EVERYBODY
BIENESTAR COMUNIDAD
activate LEGAL AID ACT + NEW BAIL ACT
JUSTICE
modernize MAGISTRATE + FAMILY courts


con MOBILE CLINICS = más lotes y terrenos disponibles con lease y títulos
FINALIZE MAYA CUSTOMARY LAND TENURE policy
DECOLONIZE OUR CONSTITUTION
FOCUS
MEJORANDO RELATIONS
with
SICA CARICOM MÉXICO USA CANADA EUROPEAN UNION COMMONWEALTH TAIWAN...
ICJ
inclusive education
educación inclusiva
LET'S ALL TAKE NOTE!
GENDER equity & empowerment

Belize National Prayer

Almighty and Eternal God, who through Jesus Christ has revealed Your Glory to all nations, please protect and preserve Belize, our beloved country.

God of might, wisdom and justice, please assist our Belizean government and people with your Holy Spirit of counsel and fortitude.

Let Your light of Your divine wisdom direct their plans and endeavours so that with Your help we may attain our just objectives.

With Your guidance, may all our endeavours tend to peace, social justice, liberty, national happiness, the increase of industry, sobriety and useful knowledge.

We pray, O God of Mercy, for all of us that we may be blessed in the knowledge and sanctified in the

observance of Your most holy law, that we may be preserved in union and, in that peace which the world itself cannot give.

And, after enjoying the blessings of this life, please admit us, dear Lord, to that eternal reward that You have prepared for those who love You.

Amen.

Gilroy Usher Pushing Forward Paving of Jane Usher Blvd

Through the efforts of Port Loyola's Hon. Gilroy Usher, Jane Usher Blvd., one of the longest streets in the division, will be a fully paved street by the end of March 2025. Hon. Usher is fully confident in the vote of his people but understands that he is there to serve at their choice. The level of work Hon. Usher has carried out has been noticed and has done positive effect on the lives of his constituents.

The major upgrade of the street will enable pedestrians, cyclists, and motorists to travel on it in comfort without the inconvenience of heavy dust in the dry season and large waterholes in the rainy season. The road was never fixed by the UDP in all their years and during the PUP's time it went into disrepair quickly. Hon. Usher and the PUP had an economy to pick up and a country to save and they did. So now, it is time to do projects like this. Thanks to the residents for their patience.

REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS
(INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT)

FISHERIES STATISTICIAN, FISHERIES BIOLOGIST AND FISHERIES DATA COLLECTOR (3 POSITIONS)

Institution:	Ministry of Finance
Country:	Belize
Project:	Promoting Sustainable Growth in the Blue Economy Program– (PSGB)
Process ID:	BL-L1042 – P00017-19
Duration:	Two (2) years
Duty Station:	Belize Fisheries Department, Belize City (In Office)
Deadline:	**March 20, 2025**; 10:00 a.m. (Local Belize Time)

The Government of Belize has received loan financing from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) for the implementation of the Project – Promoting Sustainable Growth in the Blue Economy Program – (PSGB). The general objective of the Promoting Sustainable Growth in the Blue Economy Program is to improve income generation capacity of artisanal fisherfolks and to maintain export levels of fisheries products while contributing to the sustainable use of commercial oceanic resources.

The program is comprised of two (2) components that will support the achievement of the objectives. The consultancy/assignment is aligned Component 1 Enabling environment for sustainable and resilient management of the fisheries sector and Component 2 Direct support to artisanal fisherfolk.

The Ministry of Finance invites eligible individuals to apply for the following positions at Belize Fisheries Department:

- Fisheries Statistician
- Fisheries Biologist
- Fisheries Data Collector (3 Positions)

Further details, including the required application template and full Terms of Reference, can be obtained online at https://mof.gov.bz/procurement-opportunities/ or by scanning the QR Code below. Interested individuals must provide information demonstrating that they have met the required qualifications and possess relevant experience to perform the Services.

The selection for this contractual position will be in accordance with the procedures set out in the Inter-American Development Bank: Policies for the Selection and Contracting of Consultants financed by the Inter-American Development Bank GN-2350-15 and the Government of Belize policies and best practices and is open to all eligible candidates as defined in the policies. The Consultants will be selected based on qualifications including a positive professional reference check.

Qualified individuals should submit one (1) pdf file in English, using the required template, via e-mail to khamilton.ceu@cpu.mof.gov.bz or three (3) hardcopies of their application to the address below clearly indicating "**Fisheries Statistician, Fisheries Biologist or Fisheries Data Collector (3 Positions)"**- name of consultant.

The deadline for submission is no later than **March 20, 2025, by 10:00 a.m**. **(Local Belize Time).** No late submissions will be accepted.

Karon Hamilton
Procurement Specialist Assistant
Central Executing Unit
Ministry of Finance
Sir Edney Cain Building
Email: khamilton.ceu@cpu.mof.gov.bz

Scan Here For More Details:

Ref: **Fisheries Statistician, Fisheries Biologist or Fisheries Data Collector (3 Positions)** - Your name

Ministry of Investment News

2nd Phase of "Vanilla Training for Women and Girls in the West and South of Belize" Project

Launch in Belmopan City

February 27, 2025 - The Office of the Prime Minister and Ministry of Investment, through the Investment Policy and Compliance Unit (IPCU), in collaboration with the National Women's Commission (NWC), the Taiwan Technical Mission, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, the Belize Permaculture & Renewable Energy Ltd., and the Ministry of Youth, Sports, and Transport, through the Western Region Youth Training Institute of The Department of Youth Services, officially launched the second phase of the project titled "Vanilla Training for Women and Girls in the West and South of Belize" in Belmopan City.

In this phase of the project, 30 women from the Cayo District were selected to receive training in growing and harvesting vanilla, with the goal of increasing their income-generating opportunities.

The project will:

- Provide hands-on training to women and young people on propagating and establishing vanilla vines in Belize, as well as introduce farmers to harvesting and post-harvest treatment of the crop.
- Establish the second public vanilla propagation nursery in Belize.
- Provide 10 vanilla cuttings to each of the 30 women, allowing them to cultivate the plants in their home gardens.

Vanilla is native to Belize and is used worldwide in beverages, desserts, baked goods, cosmetics, and industrial applications. It is ranked as the second most valuable spice in the world. With interest from several international companies in purchasing Belizean-grown vanilla, the government recognizes the economic opportunity that exists in the global market.

Present at the opening ceremony were Hon. Rodwell Ferguson, Minister of Youth, Sports and Transport; Valentino Shal, Chief Executive Officer in Ministry of Youth, Sports and Transport; Roberto Pan, Chief of Mission of the Taiwan Technical Mission; Lincoln Blake, Director of the IPCU in the Ministry of Investment; Eleanor Murillo, Executive Director of the National Women's Commission; Indira Loague, Director of the Department of Youth Services; and Indira Usher, Foreign Service Officer in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade. The instructors for the course are Mr. and Mrs. Christopher Nesbitt of Belize Permaculture & Renewable Energy Ltd.

CALL
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A Journey From Our Streets to Our Future

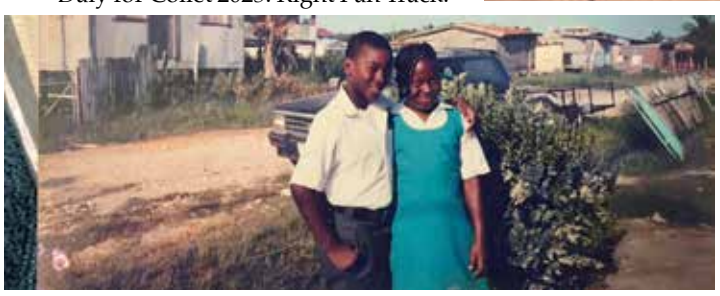
Looking at these photos, I can't help but feel nostalgic. I grew up right here, running through these streets, playing in these parks, and learning from the same community that shaped me.

I'm not just a candidate – I'm one of you. I was raised here, surrounded by the people and the neighborhood that made me who I am today. And now, I'm ready to give back to the place that gave me everything.

From childhood dreams to now standing up for our future, I'm committed to working for the children, families, and neighbors who helped shape my story. This isn't just a campaign; it's a promise to make life better for everyone who calls this place home.

Let's build a stronger, brighter future together.

Daly for Collet 2025! Right Pan Track!



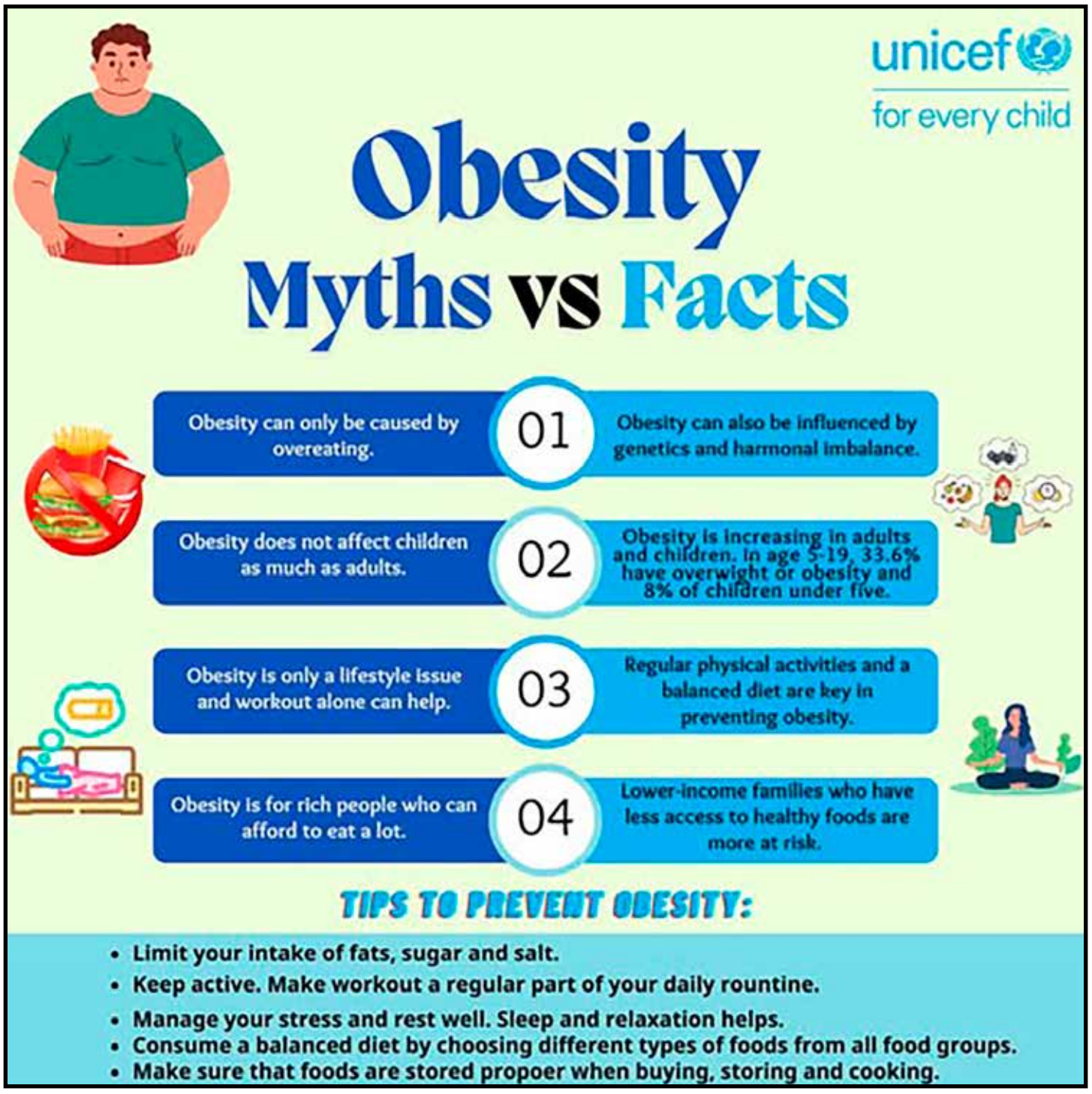
CONGRATULATIONS!!
Alysia Norales

"I am delighted to have had the opportunity to present one of my projects at the Math Association of America's Southeastern Conference at High Point University in North Carolina! I was able to share on how Logistic Regression could be used for detecting Credit Card Fraud in the financial sector. I am particularly glad to have represented my beautiful country Belize and my current university, Austin Peay State University, alongside my fellow colleagues. Belize to the World!"

Alysia is from Belmopan and she is a former member of SIF staff and making Belize proud.

On August 12, 2022, the Department of Youth Services (DYS) which is under the Ministry of Youth, Sports, and Transport selected the first, second, and third place winners for the first Belize Youth Rising Star Talent Competition to celebrate International Youth Day.

Singing, Alysia Norales of Belmopan City won the 5k first prize. She is definitely a person of multiple talents.


unicef
for every child
Obesity
Myths vs Facts
Obesity can only be caused by overeating.
01
Obesity can also be influenced by genetics and harmonal imbalance.
Obesity does not affect children as much as adults.
02
Obesity is increasing in adults and children. In age 5-19, 33.6% have overwight or obesity and 8% of children under five.
Obesity is only a lifestyle issue and workout alone can help.
03
Regular physical activities and a balanced diet are key in preventing obesity.
Obesity is for rich people who can afford to eat a lot.
04
Lower-income families who have less access to healthy foods are more at risk.
TIPS TO PREVENT OBESITY:
Limit your intake of fats, sugar and salt.
Keep active. Make workout a regular part of your daily rountine.
Manage your stress and rest well. Sleep and relaxation helps.
Consume a balanced diet by choosing different types of foods from all food groups.
Make sure that foods are stored propoer when buying, storing and cooking.

PG and Toledo PlanBelize Progress

Cemented Streets

Water in Mabil Ha

Cultural Center

Site of the New Treasury/Belize Tax Services Building

Cultural Center

CILTrust International Inc.

Resin Design Corporation Limited # 000006153
("the Company")

Notice is hereby given that the Company named **Resin Design Corporation Limited** has been dissolved and struck off the Belize Companies & Corporate Affairs Registry Register with effect from the 19th February, 2025.

CILTrust International Limited
Registered Agent

CILTrust International Inc.

Resin Design Corporation Limited # 000006153

("the Company")

Notice is hereby given to all interested parties that the company **Resin Design Corporation Limited** (the Company) registered under the Belize Companies Act 2022 commenced dissolution as follows:

a) is in dissolution
b) commenced dissolution on the 19th day of February, 2025; and
c) **CHEN, YING-YING** whose address 3F., No. 17, Ln. 133, Sec. 3, Daguan Rd., Banqiao Dist., New Taipei City 220, Taiwan is the Liquidator of the Company

CILTrust International Limited
Registered Agent

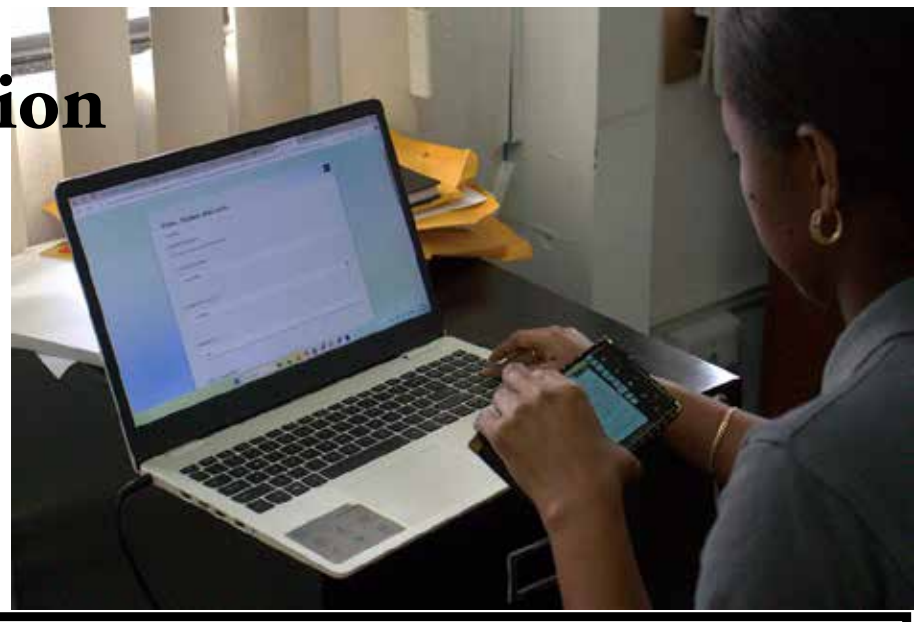
NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the Companies listed below have been dissolved and duly struck off the IBC Register as follows:

NAME OF COMPANY	Date of Dissolution
MOLARD DIRECTORS LIMITED	12th February, 2025
GRUPO INMOBILIARO DE CAPITAL PRIVADO (GICAP) LTD.	21st February, 2025
PEONY SERVICES Ltd.	28th February, 2025
Morgan & Morgan Trust Corporation Belize Ltd.	

Ministry of Youth, Sports & Transport news

Gratitude for Public Cooperation During Distribution Fair



February 26, 2025 - The Ministry of Youth, Sports & Transport and the Department of Transport sincerely appreciate the public's patience, cooperation, and understanding during the nationwide distribution fair.

We recognize the critical importance of license plates, stickers, and driver's license cards and appreciate the efforts to collect them. For individuals who were unable to retrieve their items during the distribution fair, please note that they remain available for collection at your nearest Department of Transport office during their regular working hours.

This initiative was more than a distribution exercise—it reaffirmed our ongoing commitment to service excellence, operational efficiency, and customer satisfaction. The Ministry remains steadfast in improving its systems, streamlining processes, and enhancing our public service delivery, which aligns with our core values.

We appreciate your continued support as we work toward a more efficient and accessible transport system for all.(release)

Safety is a Priority

Martinez Delivers Vehicle to Bella Vista PS

"Greetings my Beautiful people of Toledo East.

The safety of our residents is of priority. We must ensure that our police department has the adequate resources for them to carry out their duties. I am happy to deliver a brand new police Vehicle to the Bella Vista Police Station.

Together we will ensure that we will have a safe and family friendly community.

Together we will make Toledo East Rise." - Osmond Martinez

March 12th Vote for Osmond Martinez

Buiti binafi!

As we enter the month of March, let's remember our ancestors who experienced the forced exile of the Garifuna people from the Caribbean island of St. Vincent, our homeland, on March 11 in 1797. (post) #Know_Your_History

BWS IDB

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST CONSULTING SERVICES

Country: *Belize*
Project: *Water Supply & Modernization Program*
Loan/Credit/Grant No.: *BL-L1043 (5754/OC-BL)*
Institution: *Belize Water Services*
Abstract: *Consulting services for drawings and designs for civil works, piping, and electrical installations and adaptations to improve operational performance of BWS with a focus on climate change adaptation and mitigation.*
Contract/Bid No.: *BL-L1043-P00007*
Deadline*: February 19, 2025*

The *Belize Water Services has received* financing from *the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)*, toward the cost of the *Water Supply & Modernization Program* and intends to apply part of the proceeds for consulting services.

The consulting services ("the Services") for ***Drawings and Designs for Civil Works, Piping, and Electrical Installations and Adaptations*** include: *a survey and efficiency assessment of pumps and motors installed at BWS plants and pump stations (countrywide) which will be used to propose and size adequate measures to improve their energy efficiency including (but not limited to) replacement of equipment, as well as detailed civil, mechanical and electrical designs for the implementation of these proposals.*

The *Belize Water Services* now invites eligible consulting firms ("Consultants") to indicate their interest in providing the Services. **Interested Consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services.**

From the expressions of interest received, the Executing Agency will prepare a short list comprising not fewer than five (5) and not more than eight (8) eligible firms.

Consultants will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the Inter-American Development Bank: Policies for the Selection and Contracting of Consultants financed by the Inter-American Development Bank GN-2350-15 and is open to all eligible bidders as defined in the policies.

Consultants may associate with other firms in the form of a joint venture to enhance their qualifications. For the purpose of establishing the short list, the nationality of a firm is that of the country in which it is legally incorporated or constituted and in the case of Joint Venture, the nationality of the firm appointed to represent it.

A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the *QCBS* method set out in the Consultant Policies.

Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below by email by *February 19, 2025, by end of business day.*

Belize Water Services
Attn*: Ms. Jahnina Reyes, Procurement Specialist*
7 Central American Boulevard, Belize City, Belize C.A.
Tel: *+501-222-4757*
E-mail: *rce@bwsl.com.bz*

RESPECT FOR INTERNATIONAL LAW AND ICJ RULINGS VITAL FOR BELIZE

By the Rt. Hon. Said Musa

I commend the Belize government of Prime Minister John Briceño for having been in the forefront of the international condemnation of Israel's apartheid and genocide and of the upholding of international law and ICJ rulings relating to Palestine.

As far back as 26 October 2021, the House of Representatives passed a motion which said it was "appalled by the latest Israeli military assault, in May 2021, on Gaza, a territory of 141 square miles housing over 2 million Palestinians, 80% of whom are refugees driven from their homes in other parts of Palestine, resulting in the killing of at least 240 Palestinian civilians, including 66 children of Gaza, leaving all 2.1 million people facing shortages of water and power, while the bombings destroyed or damaged over a thousand homes".

The resolution noted that "in 2018, the Israeli parliament passed a "Basic Law" which states that the State of Israel is the nation-state of the Jewish people and that the fulfilment of the right of national self-determination in the State of Israel is unique to the Jewish people, thereby institutionalizing the de facto **apartheid practiced by the Israeli state".**

The House, and later the Senate, recognized that Belize has the international obligation to condemn apartheid and any support or assistance toward the maintenance of apartheid and resolved to urge the Government to support by. all means at its disposal the International Criminal Court's investigation and prosecution of individuals responsible for war crimes and crimes against humanity committed in the Occupied Palestinian Territory; and that the Government should ensure that Belize complies with its obligation under international law to contribute to lawful and effective measures, including targeted sanctions, aimed at ending Israel's grave violations of international humanitarian law and Palestinian human rights".

Exactly two years later, on 26 October 2023, Senator Eamon Courtenay, then Minister of Foreign Affairs, declared in the Senate that "The collective punishment of Gazans by Israel is a war crime . . . Such wanton violations of international law demand accountability for the perpetrators . . .The histories of Palestine and of Israel are . . . weighted by religion, by war, by oppression, by geopolitics, by apartheid policies, by systematic violations of human rights, by impunity, by disregard for international law, by the appropriation of territory and by occupation".

"We stand as witnesses," he declaimed, "as millions of Palestinians in north Gaza are forced, by order of the Israeli Government, to run for their lives with nowhere to go. They are forced to leave behind their precious possessions, only to see them destroyed by incessant bombing. 1.5 million innocent Gazans are now internally displaced. This forced displacement is a gross violation of international humanitarian law".

He warned that "The use of food as a weapon of war, leading to mass starvation is a gross violation of international humanitarian law. The scale of the humanitarian crisis evolving in Gaza is unconscionable. The collective punishment of Gazans by Israel is a war crime. As the occupying power, Israel is under an obligation to ensure that the basic needs of the residents of Gaza are met. This is the standard to be met in a civilized world. Israel is not above international law. As the UN Secretary General has repeated several times even war has rules. Those rules of war, international human rights and international humanitarian law are being flagrantly ignored by Israel . . . Such wanton violations of international law demand accountability for the perpetrators."

He concluded: "Belize will never waver from its longstanding support for the Palestinian people to exercise their right to self-determination . . . The international community must act, urgently, to end this latest example of man's inhumanity to man".

It came as no surprise, therefore, when on 14 November, 2023 the Government of Belize announced that it was suspending diplomatic relations with Israel.

Since then, the slaughter has multiplied many times over, the destruction of Gaza has become almost total, with all things necessary for human habitation turned to rubble.

And still Israel continues to defy every applicable international law with complete impunity.

Belize has so far been consequent with its principled commitment to uphold the sanctity of the right to self-determination, the prohibition against acquiring territory by force and against the transfer of people from their land, all of which directly impact upon Belize's survival as a nation state with territorial integrity.

That is why Belize co-sponsored the United Nations resolutions defending these principles, and why it intervened in the Advisory Opinion of the ICJ that in July 2024 affirmed the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination, and why it applied to intervene in the South Africa case against Israel for committing genocide against the Palestinians.

In September 2024, several UN Special Rapporteurs warned that "Failure to act now jeopardises the entire edifice of international law and rule of law in world affairs. The world stands upon the edge of a knife: Either we travel collectively towards a future of just peace and lawfulness – or hurtle towards anarchy and dystopia, and a world where might makes right."

https://srfreedex.org/un-experts-warn-international-order-on-a-knifes-edge-urge-states-to-comply-with-icj-advisory-opinion/

They warned that "States must act now. They must listen to voices calling on them to take action to stop Israel's attacks against the Palestinians and end its unlawful occupation. All States have a legal obligation to comply with the ICJ's ruling and must promote adherence to norms that protect civilians." The ruling they refer to is the one that Belize appeared in and whose arguments were adopted by the Court.

In upholding these principles, Belize is not only defending an international order that is good for world peace; it is acting in self-defence.

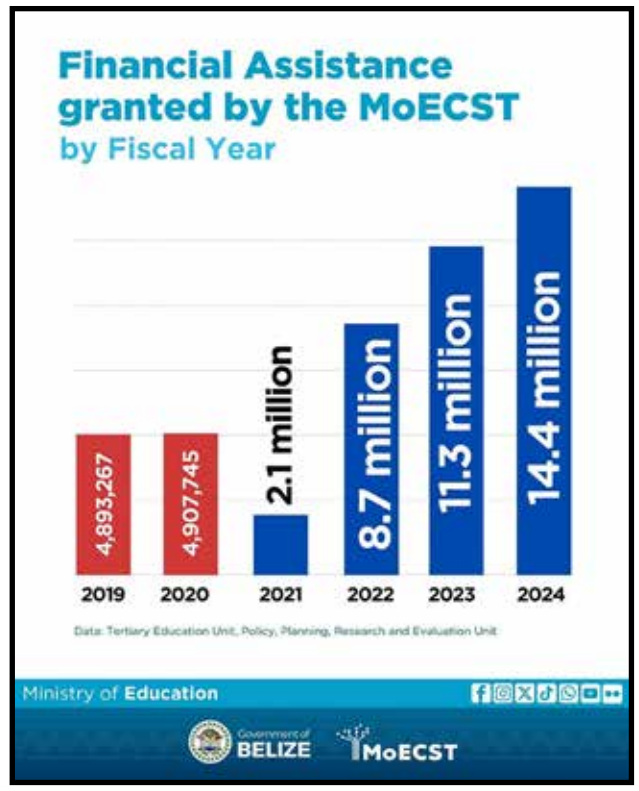
We do not forget that in the 1970s the Generals who ruled Guatemala were calling for the ethnic cleansing of Belize, threatening to invade Belize and take our land, saying that "the negritos could go back to where they came from." We also recall that it was Israel who was providing weapons to the Guatemalan army and training the soldiers preparing to invade Belize.

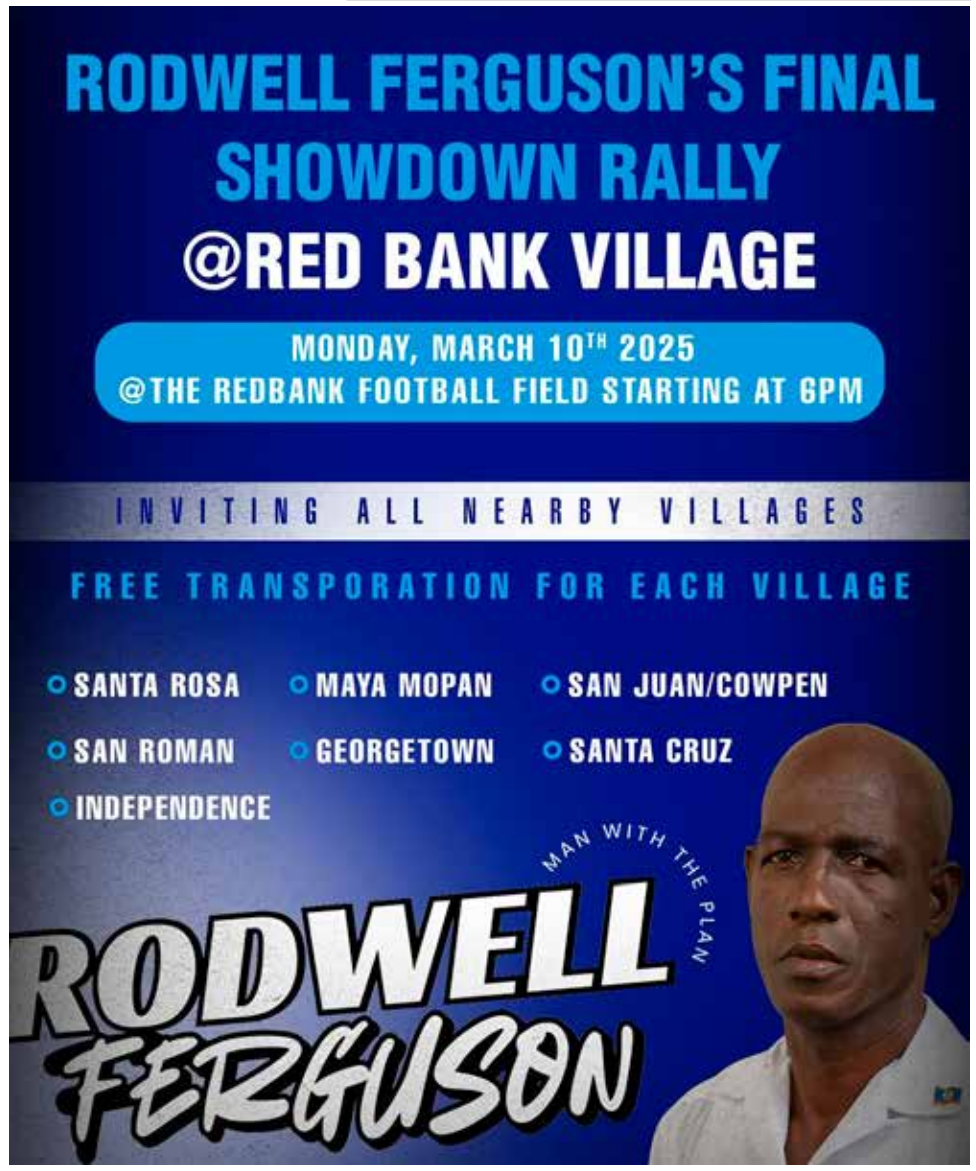
If the genocidal apartheid state of Israel succeeds in its objective of driving the Palestinians from their lands without denunciation from the international community and especially from countries who could easily suffer the same fate, who will be there to support us when we need it?

That is why I appeal to the people of Belize to stand steadfast with Belize, when its present and past Prime Ministers and other conscious Belizeans take actions locally and internationally to uphold international law and the principles that keep our nation secure. At this very moment, we have pending at the ICJ two cases where our right to self-determination is essential to our claim that this land is our land and that nobody has any rights to any part of it. We are confident that international law is on our side, but what happens when we win but Guatemala, emboldened by the impunity given to Israel to kill and seize land indiscriminately, refuses to abide by the ruling, just as Israel is refusing to abide by the ICJ's ruling of 19 July 2024? Who will come to our aid if by then respect for international law and the rulings of the ICJ has been torn to shreds?

Standing up for the right of Palestinians to self-determination, for international law and morality, for principles like the non-acquisition of territory by force or the non-removal of populations from their land, these are not a question of solidarity but of self-defence. Our lives depend on them.

Recall what the UN experts warned: **"Either we travel collectively towards a future of just peace and lawfulness – or hurtle towards anarchy and dystopia, and a world where might makes right."**





Belize NDC 3.0
Target and Action Validation for March 2025 Submission

The Ministry of Sustainable Development and Climate Change, through the National Climate Change Office (NCCO), in collaboration with Climate Analytics (CA), is developing Belize's updated Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) 3.0, which is scheduled for submission in March 2025. Following the completion of the NDC enhancement process, the NCCO and CA hosted an NDC Target and Action Validation event on February 21, 2025, at Bedran Hall, San Ignacio Hotel, from 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

The event aimed to achieve several key objectives:

- Review and finalize sectoral inputs by presenting results from the modeling exercise and addressing any pending issues from bilateral discussions.
- Confirm the final set of actions and targets to be included in NDC 3.0.
- Discuss the initial steps for implementation, ensuring a clear roadmap for achieving Belize's climate commitments.

The National Climate Change Office is grateful to the Climate Analytics team for their close collaboration, especially working closely with all stakeholders to shape a robust and ambitious NDC that supports the global climate goals of the Paris Agreement. (release)

LETTER TO THE Editor

Plan Belize 2.0 Inspires

Dear Editor,

The Briceño administration has already transformed Belize, and with Plan Belize 2.0, the best is yet to come. Even though I am voting for the first time, I am not too young. I can see the progress in our country. So, it is clear that the PUP has a plan and not just a promise—but a commitment to building a stronger, more prosperous nation for all Belizeans.

Under Plan Belize 2.0, I see the National Health Insurance (NHI) program expanded to cover all citizens, ensuring quality healthcare for every Belizean.

I see a minimum wage increase to $6, putting more money in workers' pockets… like many in my family and neighbourhood.

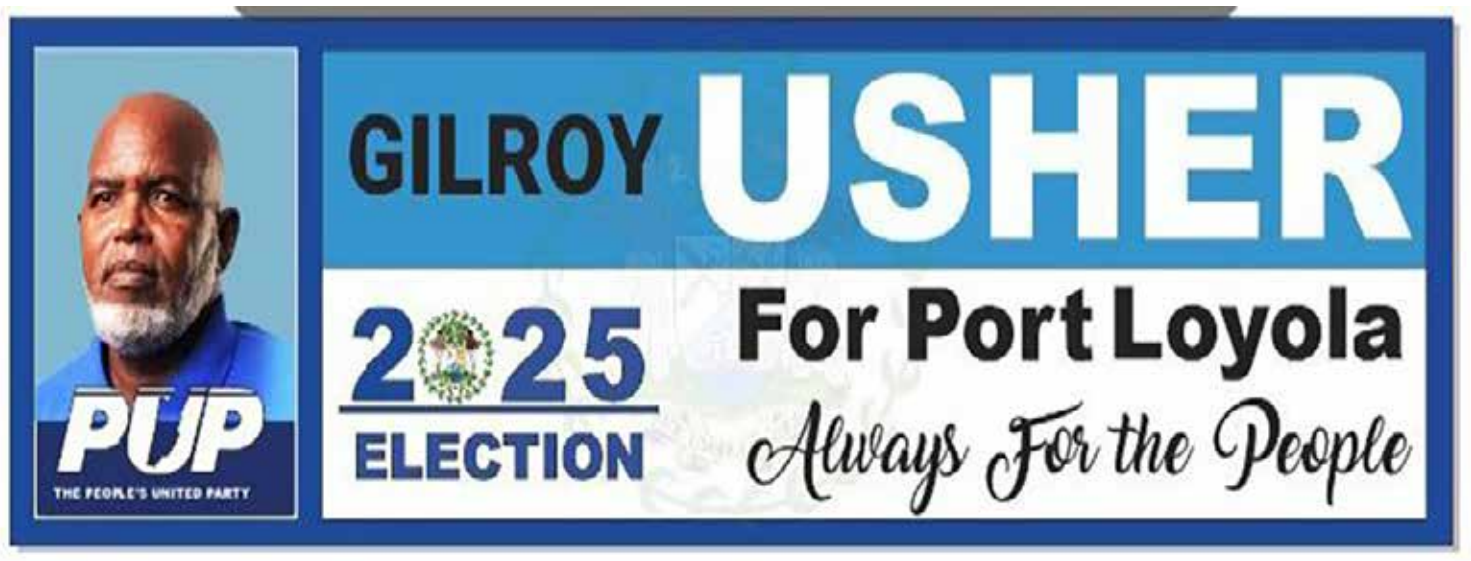
Education opportunities will grow with the expansion of free education, 501 Academy(not sure what this is but sounds good), and the People's Archives.

I see major developments, including the Port of Belize project, massive road, and bridge expansions, and increased mobile land clinics to provide fair land distribution. The government is also committed to doing more starter homes, improving security with advanced technology, and strengthening our agriculture sector to boost food security.

This is the leadership team Belize deserves—one that delivers actual results.

With Plan Belize 2.0, the future is bright. On March 12th, let us vote for continued progress!

Sincerely,
New Voter



REQUEST FOR QUOTATIONS

Procurement of Office Furniture & Office Equipment for Four (4) POs

Country: Belize
Project: Resilient Rural Belize Programme
Assignment Title: Procurement of Office Furniture & Office Equipment for Four (4) POs
Reference No.: RRB.G.28

The Government of Belize through the Ministry of Finance, Economic Development and Investment has received financing from the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and Green Climate Fund ("GCF") towards the cost of Resilient Rural Belize Programme and intends to apply part of the financing to the purchase for which this request for quotations (RFQ) is issued.

The goods, and the contract/s expected to be awarded, are divided into the following lots:

Lots	Items	Quantity
1. Office Equipment	Desktop Computer	3
	Laptop Computer	1
	3-in-one Inkjet Printer	4
	Set of Ink Cartridges for Printer	2
2. Office Furniture	Office Desk	1
	Office Chair	1
	Filing Cabinet	1

Submitted quotations should be accompanied by:

a. Cover letter
b. A copy of your business registration;
c. Completed price and delivery schedule;
d. Adequate technical documentation and catalogue(s) and any other pertinent information.

The Ministry of Finance, Economic Development and Investment/Resilient Rural Belize Programme now invites suppliers to submit quotations for supply of Office Furniture and Office Equipment as outlined in the Request for Quotation (RFQ) documentation. Suppliers will be selected using the national shopping (NS) method in accordance with the IFAD Procurement Handbook accessible at **www.ifad.org/project-procurement**.

Suppliers interested in submitting a bid shall request the full bidding document by sending an email, giving full contact details of the bidder, to the following point of contact. This will ensure that the bidders receive the full bidding document (RFQ) as well as updates regarding this procurement procedure.

Resilient Rural Belize Programme
Attn: Lemuel Palacio, Senior Procurement Officer
Hummingbird Highway
National Agriculture Showgrounds
City of Belmopan, Belize
E-mail: **lpalacio.rrb@med.gov.bz**
Copied to: Nadia Vernon - **nvernon.rrb@med.gov.bz**

Quotations should be submitted in physical form or by email attachment (in pdf format), by the deadline and to the address stated above.

The **deadline for receipt of your quotation is April 16th, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. local time**. A pre-bid meeting will be held on April 1, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. at the Resilient Rural Belize Office, Agriculture Showgrounds, City of Belmopan. Last date for request for clarifications is April 8th, 2025 and the Client will respond to bidders' questions by April 11th, 2025.

Wine, paint, and powerful women!

Councilor Leslie Rodriguez, the United Women's Group, and I had an amazing time hosting this Sip & Paint. The evening was full of laughs, art, and great conversations of how Corozal Bay could become better. Always a joy bringing strong women together! (post)

This is a great example of the breadth of planBelize. Women have been empowered in the last five years with workshops, seminars, training, and in general activities that allow a greater capacity of work output. Maybe the biggest had been the MSME Roadshow which is geared to everyone but it would be easy to believe that it is a female activity. It is a fact that females are the entrepreneurs and thus the employment creators today in Belize. More can be done for everyone but at this point the PUP will wait for the people to say: "You have five more year." We will stay Right Pan Track!

LIQUOR LICENSE NOTICES

Notice is hereby given that **Vicky X. Cowo** is applying for a **Publican Special Liquor License** to be operated at **"Five D's"** located in Progresso Village, Corozal District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Jose H. Quintanilla** is applying for a **Publican Special Liquor License** to be operated at **"Alaska Bar Parlour"** located in Libertad Village, Corozal District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Robert E. Varden** is applying for a **Restaurant Liquor License** to be operated at **"Casa Blanca By The Sea Restaurant"** located in Consejo Village, Corozal District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Santiago D. Montalvo** is applying for a **Beer Liquor License** to be operated at **"Montalvo Shop"** located in Chunox Village, Corozal District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Karen J. Pineda Iraheta** is applying for a **Beer Liquor License** to be operated at **"Daily's Mini Shop"** located in Ranchito Village, Corozal District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Ruby L. Cawich** is applying for a **Beer Liquor License** to be operated at **"M & R Shop"** located in San Narciso Village, Corozal District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Fani Y. Cobb** is applying for a **Shop Liquor License** to be operated at **"Fani's Shop"** located in Copper Bank Village, Corozal District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Bingyun Chen** is applying for a **Shop Liquor License** to be operated at **"C & L Shop"** located in Libertad Village, Corozal District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Sunil Kumar** is applying for a **Night Club Liquor License** to be operated at **"My Belize Micheladas Cool Spot & Club"** located in Finca Solana, Corozal Town, Corozal District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Travis O. Waight** is applying for a **Restaurant Liquor License** to be operated at **"422 Road Kill"** located on 4th Avenue, Corozal Town, Corozal District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Louis A. Ramirez** is applying for a **Publican Special Liquor License** to be operated at **"The Hot Sands Oasis"** located in Finca Solana, Corozal Town, Corozal District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Luis A. Tun** is applying for a **Publican Special Liquor License** to be operated at **"Ojitos Lindos Cool Spot"** located in Santa Clara Village, Corozal District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Zihuan Chen** is applying for a **Convenience Store Liquor License** to be operated at **"Q & T Supermarket"** located on 5th Avenue, Corozal Town, Corozal District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Ernando C. Cabanas** is applying for a **Publican Special Liquor License** to be operated at **"Ceasar's Cool Spot"** located on 5th Avenue, Corozal Town, Corozal District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Lily Amaya** is applying for a **Convenience Store Liquor License** to be operated at **"D & L Shop"** located in Concepcion Village, Corozal District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Lizeth L. Ek** is applying for a **Publican Special Liquor License** to be operated at **"Top Stop Spot"** located in San Narciso Village, Corozal District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Rochelly K. Montejo** is applying for a **Publican Special Liquor License** to be operated at **"Cartagena Lounge"** located in Paraiso Village, Corozal District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Kinga Kaminski** is applying for a **Publican Special Liquor License** to be operated at **"Belizima Eco Resort"** located in Los Pinos, Sarteneja Village, Corozal District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Tanya L. Manzanilla** is applying for a **Beer Liquor License** to be operated at **"R & B Convenience Store"** located in Concepcion Village, Corozal District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Erli A. Chan** is applying for a **Shop Liquor License** to be operated at **"L & Z Store"** located in Cristo Rey Village, Corozal District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Rosani A. Avilez** is applying for a **Malt & Cider Liquor License** to be operated at **"The Hidden Gem"** located in San Narciso Village, Corozal District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Martha Yolanda Tzul** is applying for a **Beer Liquor License** to be operated at **"Yolie's Store"** located in Copper Bank Village, Corozal District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Harold N. X Burns** is applying for a **Shop Liquor License** to be operated at **"Burns Village Mart"** located at # 100 Jabiru Drive, Crooked Tree Village, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Colin Gonzalez** is applying for a **Publican Special Liquor License** to be operated at **"Bambo Leo Inn Belize"** located at # 724 King Fisher Drive, Ladyville Village, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

ELECTIONS AND BOUNDARIES DEPARTMENT
GENERAL ELECTION 2025
ELECTION OFFENCES

The Elections and Boundaries Department hereby reminds the general public that the following are election offences in connection with the upcoming general election scheduled to be held on **Wednesday, 12th March 2025.**

The Representation of the People Act states as follows:

RESTRICTION ON SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUOR ON ELECTION DAY

Section 28:

(1.) Subject to sub-section (2), every person who is the holder of any liquor licence granted under the provisions of any Act authorizing the sale of intoxicating liquor in any premises maintained solely for that purpose shall take all necessary steps to cause such premises to be closed to the public upon election day until twelve midnight.

(2.) Every person who is the holder of any hotel licence, special hotel licence, restaurant licence or licence to sell liquor in any premises not solely maintained for that purpose, granted under the provisions of any Act authorizing the sale of intoxicating liquor at any time upon election day until twelve midnight.

(3.) Any person who contravenes this section commits an offence punishable on summary conviction with a fine not exceeding two thousand dollars or with imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months.

EMPLOYERS TO ALLOW EMPLOYEE PRESCRIBED PERIOD FOR VOTING

Section 29:

(1.) Every employer shall, on polling day, allow to every voter in his employ a reasonable time during the prescribed period for voting, and no employer shall make any deduction from the pay or other remuneration of any such voter or impose upon or exact from him any penalty by reason of his absence during such period.

(2.) Any employer who, directly or indirectly refuses to grant, or by intimidation, undue influence or in any other way, interferes with the granting of reasonable time to any voter in his employ during the prescribed period of voting as in this section provided, shall on summary conviction be liable to a fine not exceeding two thousand dollars or to imprisonment for a period not exceeding one year.

BAN ON LOUDSPEAKERS ETC. ON POLLING DAY

Section 31:

(1.) No person shall furnish or supply any loudspeaker, bunting, ensign, banner, standard, or set of colours, or any flag, other than the national flag, to any person with intent that it shall be carried, worn or used, as political propaganda, on polling day, and no person shall with any such intent, carry, wear or use, any such loudspeaker, bunting, ensign, banner, standard or set of colours, or any other than the national flag, on polling day.

(2.) No person shall furnish or supply any flag, ribbons, label or like favour to or for any person with intent that it be worn or used by any person within any division on polling day, as a party badge to distinguish the wearer as the supporter of any candidate, or of the political or other opinions entertained or supposed to be entertained by such candidate, and no person shall use or wear any flag, ribbon, label, or other favour, as such badge, within any division or divisions on polling day.

(3.) Nothing contained in either sub-section (1) or sub-section (2), shall be deemed to extend to the furnishing or supplying of any banner bearing only the name of any candidate or any political party or only such name preceded by the words "Vote for" or similar words or of any rosette or to the use of any such banner on any vehicle or of any such rosette.

(4.) No person shall on polling day do any of the following acts within any division in which a poll is being taken- organize, hold or participate in any meeting, or organize, lead or participate in any procession, of five or more persons; accost, or solicit or canvass his vote from any elector who had already joined the line of voters waiting to vote at any polling station.

(5.) Any person who contravenes any of the provisions of this section is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding two hundred and fifty dollars or to imprisonment for any term not exceeding six months.

INFRINGEMENT OF SECRECY

Section 39:

(1.) Every officer and clerk in attendance at a polling station shall maintain and aid in maintaining the secrecy of the voting in that station, and shall not communicate to any person, except for some purpose authorized by this Act before the poll is closed, any information as to the name or number on the register of electors of any voter who has or has not applied for a ballot paper or voted at that station, and no person whosoever shall interfere or attempt to interfere with a voter when marking his vote or otherwise obtain in the polling station any information as to the candidate for whom any voter there is about to vote or has voted, or as to the number on the back of the ballot paper given to any voter there.

(2.) Every clerk and agent in attendance at the counting of the votes shall maintain and aid in maintaining the secrecy of the voting and shall not attempt to ascertain at the counting the number on the back of any ballot paper or communicate any information obtained at the counting as to the candidate for whom any vote is given in any particular ballot paper.

(3.) No person shall directly or indirectly induce any voter to display his ballot paper after he has marked it, so as to make known to any person the name of the candidate for or against whom he has so marked his vote.

(4.) Any person acting in contravention of the provisions of this section is liable, on summary conviction, to a fine not exceeding one thousand dollars and in default of payment, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding one year.

MAINTENANCE OF ORDER AT POLLING STATIONS

Section 40:

(1.) Subject to the provisions of sub-section (2), during the hours when the poll is open upon election days no person shall assemble or congregate within one hundred yards of any building in which is situate any polling station.

(2.) This section shall not apply– to any voters who are waiting to poll their votes at such polling station and who obey any instructions which may be given by the presiding officer or any constable for the purpose of forming a queue with other electors also so waiting; or to any person who may under the provisions of this Act lawfully enter or remain in such polling station.

(3.) Every person who contravenes or fails to comply with any of the provisions of this section commits an offence against this section and is liable on summary conviction thereof to a fine not exceeding five hundred dollars or to imprisonment for six months, or to both such fine and period of imprisonment.

PROHIBITION AGAINST USE OF MOBILE TELEPHONES AND TAKING OF PHOTOGRAPHS INSIDE POLLING STATION

Statutory Instrument No. 44 of 2008 which provides that no person shall on polling day within a polling station, without the express permission of the Presiding Officer, use a mobile telephone, paging machine or any other device for electronic communications; or film or take photographs or make any audio or video recording of any matter or thing on election day, that is, **Wednesday, 12th March 2025.**

A breach of this section by any person is an offence under the law.

PROHIBITION AGAINST CARRYING OF FIREARMS ON ELECTION DAY

Statutory Instrument No. 22 of 2008 which provides that no person shall carry, discharge or use any firearm or ammunition in any public place within one hundred yards of any polling station or counting station between the hours of opening of the poll on the polling day that is, 7:00 a.m. on Wednesday, 12th March 2025, until the completion of counting of ballot papers.

This provision does not apply to members of the Belize Police Department or the Belize Defence Force on duty, or to any other public officer on official duty who has been authorized by the Commissioner of Police in writing to carry any firearm or ammunition.

A contravention of this provision is an offence under the Firearms Act.

~End~

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PROMOTION ENDS: MARCH 8TH 2025

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